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HAROLD TAVAREZ
2501 EAST 4TH STREET #2
LONG BEACH, CA 90814

COPY MAILED

JUL 17 2007

In re Application of
Harold Ariel Tavarez
Application No. 10/720,768
Filed: November 24, 2003
Title of Invention: **INERTIAL PROPULSION
DRIVE**

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition filed July 10, 2007 to withdraw the holding of abandonment, which is treated under 37 CFR 1.181, in accordance with the reasoning of the decision in Delgar Inc. v. Schuyler, 172 USPQ 513.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.181," or, as explained in more detail below, "...under 37 CFR 1.137(a)" or (b). This is not a final agency decision.

This application became abandoned on May 11, 2004 after the applicant failed to file a timely response to the Notice to File Missing Parts mailed March 9, 2004. Accordingly, a Notice of Abandonment was mailed June 1, 2006.

Petitioner, argues that the office action mailed March 9, 2004 was not received.

A review of the file reveals that the Notice to File Missing Parts was mailed to the address of record on March 9, 2004, the same address to which the Notice of Abandonment was mailed. There doesn't appear to have been any irregularity in the mailing of the Notice to File Missing Parts, and in the absence of any irregularity in the mailing, there is a strong presumption that the Notice to File Missing Parts was properly mailed to the address of record. This presumption may be overcome by a showing that the Notice to File Missing Parts was not in fact received. The showing required to establish the failure to receive an Office communication must include a statement from the inventor that the Office communication was not received and attesting to the fact that a search of the docket records indicates that the Office communication was not received. A copy of the docket record where the non-received Office communication would have been entered had it been received and docketed must be attached to and

referenced in petitioner's statement.¹

It is understood that petitioner is prosecuting this application as a *pro se* inventor and that *pro se* applicants may not have as elaborate a docketing system as a law firm. This does not warrant a total waiver of the requirement of a showing that includes copies of docket records or an adequate proxy for such copies. A *pro se* applicant should have some written records evidencing receipt of communications from and mailing of communications to the Office available to provide proof of nonreceipt. It is suggested that *pro se* applicants maintain a log of communications from and to the Office, with dates of receipt, due dates and mailing dates of responses and other papers filed noted. Furthermore, applicants may maintain entries on the file jackets noting these important dates. Absent such evidence, applicants may not be able to overcome the presumption that the correspondence was properly mailed and received at the correspondence address of record and thereafter, misplaced by applicants.

The statement of non-receipt is not enough to substantiate the claim of non-receipt and no other corroborating evidence to prove non-receipt has been presented. In view thereof, the holding of abandonment cannot be withdrawn.

ALTERNATIVE VENUES

Petitioner may wish to consider filing a renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a)² or 37 CFR 1.137(b),³ which now provides that where the delay in reply was unintentional, a

¹M.P.E.P. § 711.03(c); See Notice entitled "Withdrawing the Holding of Abandonment When Office Actions Are Not Received," 1156 O.G. 53 (November 16, 1993).

²A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a) must be accompanied by:

(1) the required reply, unless previously filed; In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application. In a nonprovisional utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995, and abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may also be met by the filing of a request for continued examination in compliance with § 1.114. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any portion thereof, the required reply must be the payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance thereof.

(2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(l);

(3) a showing to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(a) was unavoidable; and

(4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(c).

³Effective December 1, 1997, the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b) now provide that where the delay in reply was unintentional, a petition may be filed to revive an abandoned application or a lapsed patent pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b). A grantable petition filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by:

(1) the required reply, unless previously filed. In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application. In a nonprovisional application filed on or after June 8, 1995, and abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may also be met by the

petition may be filed to revive an abandoned application or a lapsed patent pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b).

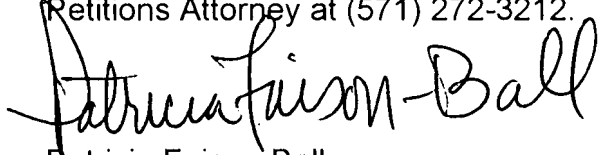
The filing of a petition under the unintentional standard cannot be intentionally delayed and therefore should be filed promptly. A person seeking revival due to unintentional delay cannot make a statement that the delay was unintentional unless the entire delay, including the delay from the date it was discovered that the application was abandoned until the filing of the petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(b), was unintentional. A statement that the delay was unintentional is not appropriate if petitioner intentionally delayed the filing of a petition for revival under 37 CFR 1.137(b).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned Petitions Attorney at (571) 272-3212.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Faison-Ball".

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

filing of a request for continued examination in compliance with § 1.114. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any portion thereof, the required reply must be the payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance thereof. In an application abandoned for failure to pay the publication fee, the required reply must include payment of the publication fee.

(2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m);

(3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional; and

(4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(c)).